

Executive Summary

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (BPP) was developed to improve the nonmotorized transportation network in the borough. RESPEC, a firm contracted by the MSB, performed an existing conditions analysis, sought input from the public, and worked with the steering committee to develop the project recommendations in this plan.

The Process

- 1 The project team reviewed existing planning documents, analyzed bicycle and pedestrian crash data, and conducted interviews with stakeholders and user groups to develop an Existing Conditions & Issues report. Outreach and research showed that there is a strong desire for a robust bike and pedestrian network in the MSB and a clear need to make nonmotorized transportation safer for all users. Two key challenges with developing a borough-wide transportation network were identified: population centers are widely dispersed and several entities are responsible for constructing and maintaining nonmotorized facilities.
- 2 The team conducted extensive outreach to identify where new or improved facilities are needed according to the folks who know the area best – MSB residents. In addition to interviews and an interactive comment map, MSB staff attended several community events to share information and gather public input.
- 3 The BPP steering committee has provided guidance and feedback throughout the entire process. The committee has 10 members, each of whom has familiarity and expertise with the bike and pedestrian network in the MSB. The members of the committee provided recommendations, identified important user groups, and reviewed multiple drafts of the BPP.

Implementation Plan

The BPP contains 81 policy, infrastructure, and program recommendations. The infrastructure recommendations are listed as near-term, mid-term, or

long-term projects, though the timeframes for individual projects may vary based on future studies or the need to obtain right-of-way.

- Policy:
 - ❖ Facility design standards
 - ❖ Complete Streets policy
 - ❖ Snow clearing policy
 - ❖ Maintenance policy
 - ❖ Subdivision regulations
 - ❖ Vision Zero program
- Infrastructure:
 - ❖ Separated, shared-use paths
 - ❖ Sidewalks
 - ❖ Roadway crossing treatments
 - ❖ Connections between or extensions of existing pathways
- Programs:
 - ❖ Nonmotorized taskforce
 - ❖ Annual bicycle/pedestrian counts
 - ❖ Level of service assessment
 - ❖ Bicycle and pedestrian map
 - ❖ ADA assessment
 - ❖ Wayfinding plan
 - ❖ Greenbelt pathway reconnaissance and engineering study
 - ❖ Interpretive bicycle and pedestrian path

The BPP also outlines what funding sources are available based on what entity or entities will be taking ownership of the project and provides a list of potential grant funding opportunities.

Recreation connections and resources

Another goal of the BPP is to connect the nonmotorized transportation network to recreational trail networks and parks. To accomplish this, many of the recommended infrastructure projects link these two networks. The plan also contains a map of trailheads and public parks that shows existing or planned network connections and compiled resources for residents and visitors to learn more about recreational trails in the MSB!